H.M.T. Units in NER

662. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether H.M.T. has any factory or installation in Assam and N.E. Region;

(b) if so, whether these are running properly;

(c) if not, the reasons of their closure; and

(d) the steps Government propose to close such installation and industry in N.E. Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, HMT Ltd. and its subsidiaries do not have any factory or installation in Assam and N.E. Region. N.P.(c) and (d) HMT Ltd. had a Miniature Battery Unit at Guwahati, Assam Manufacturing Button type of cells for quartz watches. As a part of Turnaround Plan of HMT, in 2000 it was decided to close down five unviable and chronically loss making units including Miniature Battery Unit at Guwahati, Assam. This unit was closed on 31.12.2000 by giving VRS to the employees. The land on which it was situated has been taken over by Assam Industrial Development Corporation.

Autonomy to Universities

663. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Advisory Board of Education's First Report recommended for autonomy to the Universities to start self-financing courses;

(b) if so, whether the Report has been discussed within his Ministry;

(c) the other recommendations made by the CABE with regard to University education;

(d) whether it is also a fact that CABE strongly recommended that 1/3rd of the investment should go to higher education; and

(e) if so, what is the investment made in higher education during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report states that all universities and colleges should have the autonomy to start self-financing courses, particularly in new and emerging areas where job opportunities exist subject to the over-all framework provided by the funding and regulatory bodies. Rules and regulations on this may be reviewed with a view to dispensing with avoidable hassles.

(c) Other major recommendations contained in the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education Committee (CABE) on Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions are detailed in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A sum of Rs. 2737.04 crore and Rs. 5435.83 crore under Plan and Non-Plan respectively was provided to the UGC during the last 5 years.

Statement

Main recommendations contained in the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committeee on Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions

1. Formulation of a Central Legislation in consultation with UGC, AICTE and other Professional Councils to streamline establishment and governance of Private Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Self-Financing Institutions and establishment of Foreign Universities in India.
2. National Testing Service (NTS) on the lines of Educational Testing Service of USA for the purpose of setting up national norms of students performance.
3. Approach Planning Commission for the enhancement of allocation to higher education sector to the level of 2% of GDP.
4. Set up a task force to re-examine the existing UGC Act to provide for incorporation of new provisions to suit the emerging concerns and realities of higher education.

5. To promote Job Oriented Courses.

6. Set up norms of accreditation, which could be profitably employed by the non-governmental agencies.

7. To provide a forum to national level teacher's organization to develop norms for teacher appraisal.

8. Undertake revision of UGC Act to make it a more significant instrument.

9. Set up a consortium of institutions involving other statutory bodies, industries and research laboratories to work out details for necessary collaboration in enhancing activities of research.

10. Evolve strategies to monitor the proper utilization of grants made available to the institutions of higher education and to seek from the institutions the outcomes of the programmes.

11. The universities and institutions of higther education should immediately initiate steps to review their Act, Statutes & Ordinances to provide for greater autonomy in consultation with respective Governments.

12. Grant autonomy to individual institutions in matters of design of curriculum

13. Set up an Internal Qualtiy Assurance Cell.

14. A strong need for improving the quality of Orientation Programmes and Refreshers Courses.

15. Draw up its academic calendar providing for dates of admission, schedule of vacation, holding of examination and declaring of results, efforts should be made that such academic calendars are synchronized at least for universities within a state so that students are not put to any inconvenience in the event of mobility from one university to another, if the need so arises.

16. A Cental Higher Educaton Tribunal be set up for expeditious disposal of litigations on serrvice matters relating to both academic and non-academic staff in the higher education system.